

Message Text

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TO ALL EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS
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LIMDIS; USS HAROLD HOLT PLEASE PASS ASST SEC HOLBROOKE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS:XC

SUBJECT:WEEKLY STATUS REPORT -- THAILAND, INDONESIA,
MALAYSIA, BURMA AND SINGAPORE AFFAIRS

INDONESIA

ACCELERATED RELEASE OF POLITICAL DETAINEES (LOU)

KOPKAMTIB COMMANDER ADM. SUDOMO ANNOUNCED JULY 4 THAT GOI
WILL RELEASE 1978 TRANCHE OF 10,000 PRISONERS IN THREE
STAGES -- IN JULY, OCTOBER AND DECEMBER. NUMBERS TO BE
RELEASED AT EACH STAGE NOT INDICATED. SUDOMO SAID 1977
RELEASES HAD GONE SMOOTHLY WITH NO SIGNIFICANT ADVERSE
EFFECT ON INTERNAL SECURITY. DESPITE PROBLEMS OF FINDING
EMPLOYMENT, RELATIVELY FEW EX-DETAINEES HAVE CHOSEN TO
ACCEPT THE GOI'S OFFER OF LAND AT RESETTLEMENT CENTERS.

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ASEAN DIALOGUE DELEGATION (CONFIDENTIAL)

WE UNDERSTAND WIDJOJO WILL DEFINITELY HEAD THE INDONESIAN
DELEGATION TO THE US-ASEAN MEETING IN WASHINGTON AUGUST
3-4. WIDJOJO REPORTEDLY WANTS TO REMAIN IN THE U.S.
SEVERAL DAYS MORE TO REPEAT THE PATTERN OF MEETINGS WITH

BUSINESS AND FOUNDATION REPS WHICH HE, MURDANI AND LIM BIAN

KIE CONDUCTED LAST SUMMER. LIM WILL ACCOMPANY HIM, BUT MURDANI WILL NOT. THE PERTAMINA REP IN WASHINGTON IS ARRANGING A WASHINGTON PROGRAM FOR AUGUST 7 THROUGH THE LOCAL RAND OFFICE AND WILL SET UP A SCHEDULE FOR SEVERAL DAYS IN NEW YORK FOR WIDJOJO TO MEET WITH BANKERS, OILMEN, ETC. WE UNDERSTAND WIDJOJO HOPES IN WASHINGTON TO MEET WITH SECRETARY SCHLESINGER TO DISCUSS THE LNG CASE AND CRUDE OIL IMPORTS TO CALIFORNIA, BUT WE HAVE NO OFFICIAL REQUEST AT THE PRESENT TIME FOR SUCH A MEETING.

TRAVELS OF DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR OIL AND GAS WIJARSO (LOU)

GOI DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR OIL AND GAS (MIGAS) WIJARSO WILL VISIT WASHINGTON JULY 10 EN ROUTE TO AN OPEC COMMITTEE MEETING ON DOLLAR SUBSTITUTION. WE HAVE ARRANGED AN APPOINTMENT FOR HIM TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THAT SUBJECT WITH DAS BOSWORTH AND WILL SET UP A MEETING IN EA FOR A DISCUSSION OF OTHER TOPICS OF MUTUAL INTEREST. WIJARSO WILL ALSO BE IN HONOLULU LATER IN JULY (25TH) AS PART OF AN INDONESIAN GROUP TAKING PART IN A PACIFIC ENERGY STUDY CONSORTIUM CONFERENCE BEING SPONSORED BY THE EWC. OTHERS INVITED AND EXPECTED TO ATTEND ARE MINISTER SUBROTO, FORMER MINISTER SADLI, DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF MINING KATILI, AND PERTAMINA PRESIDENT-DIRECTOR PIET HARYONO. ALL BUT
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SADLI WILL HURRY BACK TO INDONESIA AT THE END OF THE WEEK'S CONFERENCE TO BE PRESENT FOR THE DEDICATION OF THE FIRST HALF OF THE ARUN LNG PROJECT IN EARLY AUGUST.

PENDING BUSINESS (LOU)

WE ARE CONTINUING EFFORTS TO GET THE TALKING POINTS ON PL-480 FOR FY 79 TO AMBASSADOR MASTERS AS WELL AS CABLES ON THE FREILIN PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN AND EAST TIMOR IN THE U.N. ALTHOUGH WE TRIED, THE USG WAS EFFECTIVELY CLOSED FRIDAY-TUESDAY.

SINGAPORE

AMBASSADOR-DESIGNATE KNEIP (LOU)

GOVERNOR KNEIP HAS RETURNED TO SOUTH DAKOTA FOLLOWING HIS CONSULTATIONS DURING THE WEEK OF JUNE 26-30. HE TENTATIVELY PLANS TO BE SWORN IN ON THE 25TH OF JULY, POSSIBLY AT THE WHITE HOUSE, AND THEN WILL PROCEED TO POST VIA CONSULTATIONS AT CINCPAC WITH A TARGET ARRIVAL DATE IN SINGAPORE OF AUGUST 2-3.

PM LEE'S VIEWS ON ASIAN SCENE (SECRET)

DURING A 45 MINUTE MEETING WITH AMBASSADOR SCHNEIDER, PM LEE INDICATED THAT HE SHARED THE ROK ATTITUDE TO U.S. TROOP WITHDRAWAL -- TO WIT THAT HE IS LESS DISTURBED AS HE BETTER UNDERSTANDS ITS DIMENSIONS. HE ALSO INDICATED THAT HE WAS LESS PESSIMISTIC THAN IN 1968 ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN ASIA SINCE THE VARIOUS DISPUTES IN INDOCHINA GIVE THE NON-COMMUNIST SEA COUNTRIES ADDITIONAL TIME TO PUT THEIR OWN HOUSES IN ORDER. HE REPEATED THAT THEME IN HIS LETTER TO YOU. HE REMAINS WORRIED ABOUT THAILAND BUT CHARACTERIZED THE MAIN THREATS TO NON-COMMUNIST COUNTRIES IN THE REGION AS INCLUDING OPEN ARMED AGGRESSION FROM THE
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NORTH (A REMOTE PROSPECT), INTERNAL INSURGENCIES, THE ECONOMIC THREAT OF PROTECTIONISM FROM THE WEST, AND THE LONG RANGE DESIGNS OF THE USSR. HE AGAIN EMPHASIZED THE NEED FOR A CONTINUED POLITICAL, ECONOMIC AND MILITARY U.S. PRESENCE IN THE REGION.

SINGAPORE DIESEL PROJECT (LOU)

THE GOS IS NOW REPORTEDLY CONSIDERING THE POSSIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING A DIESEL ENGINE PLANT OUTSIDE OF THE ASEAN PROJECT FRAMEWORK. (THE PLANT HAD BEEN ONE OF THE ORIGINAL FIVE DESIGNATED ASEAN PROJECTS.) THE EMBASSY COMMENTS THAT PM LEE HAD PREVIOUSLY TOLD AMBASSADOR HOLDRIDGE THAT THE FIVE ASEAN INDUSTRIAL PROJECTS WERE AGREED UPON TOO HASTILY AND QUESTIONED HOW THEY WOULD WORK. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES THE GOS'S PRINCIPAL INTEREST IN ASEAN REMAINS ITS POTENTIAL FOR INCREASING THE REGION'S POLITICAL STABILITY AND AVOIDING SINGAPOREAN ISOLATION IN THE REGION RATHER THAN ANY ECONOMIC BENEFITS IT MAY YIELD.

MALAYSIA

COMMENT OF PRC AMBASSADOR TO MALAYSIA (LOU)

AMBASSADOR MILLER REPORTS THAT THE PRC AMBASSADOR FOR THE FIRST TIME STRUCK UP A CONVERSATION WITH HIM AT A SOCIAL OCCASION. THE PRC AMBASSADOR NOTED AMONG OTHER THINGS THAT HE HAD READ A RECENT SPEECH BY AMBASSADOR MILLER AS WELL AS YOUR RECENT HONOLULU REMARKS.

MALAYSIAN PARLIAMENTARY ELECTIONS (LOU)

WE HAVE RECEIVED NO ADDITIONAL INFORMATION CHANGING THE
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PRELIMINARY ESTIMATE THAT PM HUSSEIN'S GOVERNMENT WILL
PREVAIL IN THE ELECTIONS SCHEDULED FOR JULY 8. VANCE

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